

Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP

Trial Attorneys

Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP Announces That an Orange County Deputy Sheriff's Lawsuit Addressing Unpaid Overtime Has Been Granted Class Action Status

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. and CLAREMONT, Calif. – February 26, 2007 – Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP and the Law Offices of Herbert Hafif announced today that on February 12, 2007, in the case of *Reed v. County of Orange* (“*Reed*”), the U.S. District Court, Central District of California granted the *Reed* lawsuit preliminary certification as a collective action on behalf of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs below the rank of sergeant. The *Reed* lawsuit was brought to the court by Gregory G. Petersen, a partner in Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP, who was then joined by Herbert Hafif of the Law Offices of Herbert Hafif. Ms. Reed, a Deputy Sheriff at the Orange County Central Jail Complex, and other deputies seek to recover unpaid overtime wages.

The deputies contend that the Orange County Sheriff's Department required them to work overtime without compensation in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”). The lawsuit asserts that the County failed to properly compensate the deputies for the time spent performing required and integral pre-shift and post-shift activities such as attending briefings, court hearings, collecting and maintaining protective gear and specialized equipment, and other tasks benefiting Orange County.

As a result of the preliminary approval, the court has determined that a Notice of a Collective Action will be sent to current and former sheriff's deputies who can now opt-in to the *Reed* lawsuit as a class action lawsuit. The parties are finalizing the text of the Notice, which is expected to be sent out within the next month.

Gregory G. Petersen of the law firm of Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP and Herbert Hafif of the Law Offices of Herbert Hafif are representing the plaintiffs' class.

About Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP

The law firm of Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP specializes in labor and employment law litigation and business litigation. The firm's areas of focus within labor and employment include civil rights, labor relations, contract negotiations, disciplinary actions, FLSA, California labor law, discrimination, retaliation, wage and hour issues, and wrongful termination. Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP has a near 30-year history of representing public and private industry employees and their associations in contract negotiations, disciplinary actions, civil rights claims, and class action lawsuits related to wage and hours matters. The firm also has a history of success in recovering overtime wages from public and private employers through FLSA class action litigation, including recent cases against the City of Los Angeles, numerous other public entities and companies in the hospitality and fitness industries. Additionally, Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP provides its clients counsel in the areas of construction defect, intellectual property, product liability and first and third party insurance litigation, as well as personal injury claims. Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP is headquartered in Newport Beach, California. More information on Castle, Petersen & Krause, LLP can be found at www.cpk-law.com.

About the Law Offices of Herbert Hafif

The Law Offices of Herbert Hafif, located in Claremont, California and established in 1956, is comprised of plaintiff civil contingency litigation lawyers who are nationally recognized and highly regarded at the local level. Areas of practice include personal injury, class action, business and commercial litigation, insurance

bad faith, breach of contract, product liability, wrongful termination and medical malpractice cases. More information on the Law Offices of Herbert Hafif can be found at www.hafif.com.

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